

Message Text

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60

ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 IGA-01 SSO-00 PRS-01

USIE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 L-03 COME-00 /044 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:GADIES:JR

APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH

AFR/CWR:ICOKER(SUBS)

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O 060018Z NOV 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 262758

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT:CORNERSTONE CEREMONY FOR COTONOU BRIDGE-DAM

REF: COTONOU 1673

1. DEPT FEELS BEST COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE FOR AMBASSADOR TO POLITELY REFUSE TO ATTEND ANY PUBLIC CEREMONY FOR LAYING OF CORNERSTONE ON GROUNDS THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON ARE ALL PRELIMINARY CONDITIONS TO COMMENCEMENT OF THIS PROJECT (INCLUDING THE VERY IMPORTANT CONDITION OF A SIGNED CONTRACT WITH AMERICAN FIRM) HAVE NOT YET BEEN SATISFIED. FURTHER, IN REPLYING TO MRGD, AMBASSADOR SHOULD MAKE POINT THAT CEREMONY IS PREMATURE IN LIGHT OF ONGOING SEARCH FOR FIRM TO UNDERTAKE BRIDGE PROJECT. IF MRGD INSISTENT THAT CEREMONY PROCEED AS SCHEDULED, NO RPT NO OFFICIAL AMERICANS SHOULD BE PRESENT.

2. FYI: AID/W'S CONTACTS NOVEMBER 5 WITH SANDERS AND THOMAS INDICATE THAT ONLY ONE BIDDER AT BEST NOW INTERESTED IN PROJECT, AND EVEN THAT FIRM (NELLETIER) NOT CERTAIN IT WILL BID. THEREFORE, PUBLIC COMMITMENT
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TO BRIDGE AT THIS TIME WOULD REBOUND AGAINST USG IN NO

RESPONSIVE BIDS RECEIVED IN DECEMBER END FYI KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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